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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not possible for the Government to get this information about the sale of lands at least in the supposed project area?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The ayacut has not yet been localised. Therefore the information that is asked for cannot be given now."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, when the legislation relating to the Tungabhadra project about preventing speculation in purchase of land will be introduced?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Notice; this is a subject dealt with by the Minister for Revenue."

Secretary, Chingleput District Board.

* 128 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHUANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the claims of one Mr. Natesa Ayyar, a senior qualified officer in the service of the Chingleput District Board, has been overlooked when the vacancy of the secretaryship arose;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Manicka Naicker has been appointed to the secretaryship;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Manicka Naicker was much junior to Mr. Natesa Ayyar and educationally unqualified for the post;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Natesa Ayyar has appealed to Government against the decision of the District Board President, Chingleput, in overlooking his claims for the secretaryship of the Board; and

(*e*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker was appointed as Secretary of the Chingleput District Board in preference to one Sri Natesa Ayyar who was his senior. Sri Manicka Naicker is qualified to hold the post of Secretary. Promotion to the post of Secretary which is a selection post is made on grounds of merit, seniority being considered only where the qualifications and merit are approximately equal. The promotion of Sri Manicka Naicker as Secretary was made on this basis."

(*d*) & (*e*) Sri Natesa Ayyar submitted a petition to Government in November 1946 against the supersession of his claims for appointment as Secretary of the Chingleput District Board. The petition was rejected."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether it is a fact that Sri Manicka Naicker has not got even S.S.L.C. qualification?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Sri Manicka Naicker is a S.S.L.C. eligible for college course." (Laughter.)

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" Not for Secretaryship you mean ! "

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it a fact that Natesa Ayyar, when he was the manager of the defunct taluk board, was charged with forgery of a cheque for Rs. 2,000?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Natesa Ayyar was charged for defalcation and other irregularities. Police enquiries revealed no tangible proof. His work was generally considered to be good."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the charges were foisted by Manicka Naicker himself, and the charges against Natesa Ayyar were found unsustainable and he was exonerated? " (Laughter.)

(No answer.)

Chingleput Wholesale Stores.

* 129 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Chingleput Wholesale Stores were the wholesalers for procuration and distribution in Madurantakam taluk and parts of Saidapet taluk ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that large quantities of rice were transferred from Madurantakam Sub-depot to Saidapet Sub-depot in the year 1946 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that out of this stock about 1,068 bags of rice were missing and remained unaccounted for;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that this quantity has gone underground into the blackmarket ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Co-operative Department Official who unearthed this scandal has been transferred immediately ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that these 1,068 bags of rice were written off in the accounts as wastage and dryage ; and

(*g*) whether the Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter and bring the offender to book?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The stores are supplying rice to the Madras suburban area and rice is therefore being transferred not only from Madurantakam sub-depot but also from Conjeeveram, Chingleput and Uttiramerur to Saidapet.

" (*c*) No complaint in this regard has been received and no enquiry was therefore made.

" (*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) The Government have no knowledge.

" (*g*) The Government are having the matter enquired into."